biology of genads; and to obtain integrated approaches, directives and strategies for comprehensive research and action in sexual and reproductive health through interactive involvement of exports from many related fields.

Monitoring of Plague

80. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether in 1989, the Bangalore based Plague Surveillance Unit (PSU, the nodal agency for monitoring the dreaded disease in India has been reporting incidents of seropositivity to the National Institute of Communicable Diseases (NICD);

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard;

(c) how many rats were subsequently tested seropositive annually during the year 1990. 1991, 1992, 1993 and 1994 and at which places and with what results; and

(d) what remedial measures were taken since then to prevent the outbreak of the epidemic?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Out of 20456 rodent sera samples tested in 1989, 3 were found positive.

(c) and (d) The sero surveillanace of rodents has been continuously undertaken by the Plague Surveillance Unit at NICD at Bangalore and the results were regularly communicated to the NICD, New Delhi and to the State Health Authorities and other implementing agencies for necessary action. The details of rodent sera tested and number of positives detected during the years 1990 to 1993 are as under:—

Year	Rodent sera	No+'ve
1990 . . .	32664	4
1991 . . .	45301	50
1992 .	54626	135
1993 . . .	51649	21

Death of patients in ICU of LNJP Hospital

81. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that two patients admitted in the ICU of the Lok Nayak Jai Prakash Naram Hospital died recently due to failure of the oxygen supply;

(b) if so, whether Government have made any inquiry into causes for failure of the oxygen supply to the patients; and

(c) if so, what is the outcome thereof and what action has been taken by Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Spread of Hepatitis in the Capital

82. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to a Press news-item captioned "Hepatitis epidemic feared", as reported in the 'Statesman' of 13th November, 1994;

(b) if so, whether the Central Government propose to investigate the cause of spread of Hepatitis patiants in the Capital; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) Yes, Scr.

(b) and (c) Focal outbreak of Jaundice was reported from certain areas of Delhi only. National Institute of Communicable Diseases, Delhi provides laboratory support to inevestigate hapatitis outbreaks.

Outbreak of Malaria in Rajasthan

83. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA:
MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the outbreak of Malaria in Rajasthan:

(b) if so, which of the areas in the State are most affected by Malaria, according to the study by the Centre; and

(c) what is the central assistance given to the State Goveitnment against the demand, if any, to meet the situation?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Barmer, Bikaner Jaisalmer and Jodhpur Districts were the most affected.

(c) A central technical team was deputed to the State to evaluate the situation and provide technical guidance. Besides, the following materials have been provided to the State by the Centre:

Choloroquine tabs.—245 lakhs
Primaguine tabs.—41.31 lakhs
Qucnine injection—3,000 ampules
DDT 50 per cent—424 MT
BHC 50 per cent—50 MT
Aayush—64
(Ayurvedic drugs)

Workshop on pre-natal diagnoses and therapy

84. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of a recent national workshop held in Bangalore on Pre-natal diagnosis and therapy organised by ISPAT and of the contents of its deliberations;

(b) whether the consensus of the workshop emerging from deliberation suggested the suitability of Bangalore as a potential bio-tech centre in the whole of South Asia;

(c) whether it is also a fact that despite massive outlays in health and medicare, India does not have a single laboratory that could serve as a reference centre providing complete range of diagnostic facilities required in pre-natal diagnosis: and

(d) whether Government would institute a special category of fellowships under the ICMR Scheme in micro-biology and genetic engineering which will address basic human issues?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) to (d). Information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House.

Measures to prevent the spread of Fluorosis

85. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether fluorosis is still widely prevalent in India in as many States as 15 including Karnataka; and

(b) whether any preventive measures are being taken by ensuring adequate provision of potable water to rural populace and to prevent water pollution?